REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-14 are canceled. Claims 15-33 are presented for examination.

Support for the correction of claim 21 can be found in paragraph [00011] of the specification as filed.

Traversal of Finality of Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of July 9, 2008, withdrawing all previous rejections and rejecting all claims over newly cited art, is not proper, as the subject matter presently claimed was also previously presented for examination.

Acordingly, withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action and entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Present invention

All present claims are directed to a method for fitting a balancing weight to a balancing shaft with formation of an interference fit, the method comprising:

introducing the balancing weight (5) onto the hollow body (2),

plastically expanding the hollow body (2) by means of an internal high pressure inside the hollow body (2) locally only at a location of the introduced balancing weight (5),

expanding the balancing weight (5) due to a contact of the balancing weight (5) with the hollow body (2), and

relieving the internal high pressure so that the balancing weight (5) springs back elastically.

As described in paragraph [00011] of the specification as filed, in a further especially preferred embodiment of the balancing shaft according to the invention, the hollow body is plastically expanded at the location of its connection to the balancing weight, the balancing weight being expanded at this location in such a way as to spring back elastically. This results in

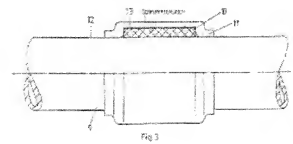
an especially strong interference fit between hollow body and balancing weight for an immovable hold of the balancing weight during axial mechanical stresses and also during very high radial mechanical stresses, in particular at a high speed of the balancing shaft and with high centrifugal masses of the balancing weight during operation of the balancing shaft.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 15- 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0385160A1.

According to the Examiner, EP 0385160A1 teaches every element of every claim. However, the Examiner does not point to any specific teaching in EP 0385160A1 in support of the rejection.

On review, EP 0385160A1 (=GB2041159) relates to the fixing of a balancing weight 10 on a rotating shaft, for example in the form of the connecting tube 9 of a shaft with a universal joint, there being provided for fixing purposes a shrink hose 11 and, if necessary, additionally a glass-fibre reinforced adhesive strip 13, initially wound over the external circumference and the balancing weight 10, over which the shrink hose 11 is pushed and is fitted in a permanently seated manner after heating.



There is no mention of plastically expanding a hollow body by means of an internal high pressure inside the hollow body locally only at a location of the introduced balancing weight.

There is no mention of expanding the balancing weight due to a contact of the balancing weight with the plastically expanded hollow body.

There is no mention of relieving the internal high pressure so that the balancing weight springs back elastically.

Accordingly, EP 0385160A1 does not teach presently claimed method 21.

Since all remaining claims depend from claim 21, all dependent claims are also free of this prior art.

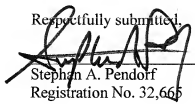
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon, and have no further comment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

Should further **issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.**

Respectfully submitted,



Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

Patent Central LLC
1401 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, FL 33020-5237
(954) 922-7315

Date: **December 9, 2008**